PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MADRAS GOVERNMENT

IN THE

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

(IRRIGATION BRANCH)

FOR THE

MONTH OF JULY 1916.

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Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IRRIGATION.
ACCOUNT.

G.O. No. 318 I., 24th July 1916

Construction of a bathing ghat at 1 mile 2 furlongs 200 feet in the left bank of the Branch channel No. 2, Periyar System

Sanctioning the execution, by the Public Works Department as a full contribution work, of the —, at an estimated cost of Rs. 81.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Irrigation.
Account.

Read—the following papers :—

I

Letter—from M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur L. D. Venkatarama Ayyar Avargal, B.A., B.C.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
To—the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Dated—Trichinopoly, the 8th July 1916.
No.—1092-C.E.

I have the honour to forward herewith an estimate amounting to Rs. 81 (including centage charges) for constructing a bathing ghat in the left bank of the Second Branch channel (Periyar) at 1 mile 2 furlongs and 200 feet and request that, with reference to G.O. No. 330 I., dated 24th October 1911, sanction of Government may be obtained for the construction of the ghat.

2. From the report attached to the estimate it will be seen that the building of the ghat at the site proposed is not only unobjectionable but it will also prevent the channel berms from being spoiled by people getting down at random. The work will be carried out by this department as a full contribution work, the entire cost being borne by Ulaganatha Pillai of Kattakulam who has applied for it.

3. The instructions issued in G.O. No. 408 I., dated 15th July 1913, will be attended to before the work is put in hand.

Enclosure.

Report to accompany the estimate for constructing a bathing ghat in the left bank of the Second Branch channel at 1 *mile* 2 *furlongs* 200 *feet from head.*

	RS.
Amount of estimate	81

This estimate is prepared at the request of one Ulaganatha Pillai of Kattakulam who has built a temple and a choultry close to the Second Branch channel where it crosses the cross road from Sholavandan to Andipatti and who now wants to build a bathing ghat on the left bank of the second branch channel just above the road bridge for the convenience of the travelling public who have to get down and take water from the channel. The building of a bathing ghat at the site proposed is unobjectionable and will also prevent the channel berms from being spoiled by people getting down at random.

This estimate therefore provides for constructing a bathing ghat at the proposed site as shown in the plan herewith enclosed. The work will be carried out as a full contribution work, the petitioner bearing the entire cost.

J. S. Westerdale,
Executive Engineer, Madura Division.

25*th June* 1916.

II

Endorsement by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, No. 5605/16 B-1, dated 22nd July 1916.

Submitted to Government for sanction.

W. M. Ellis, Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department (Irrigation Branch).

Order—No. 318 I., dated 24th July 1916.

The execution, by the Public Works Department as a full contribution work, of the work of constructing a bathing ghat at 1 mile 2 furlongs 200 feet on the left bank of Branch channel No. 2, Periyar system, at an estimated cost of Rs. 81 is sanctioned.

2. This sanction is registered as No. 42 I. of 1916-17.

3. The Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, will see that the estimated cost of the work is recovered from the party concerned before the work is put in hand.

4. The work on completion will become the property of Government and the Superintending Engineer will get a statement from the concerned party accepting this condition before the work is started.

(True Extract)

W. M. ELLIS, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.
(*Irrigation Branch*).

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle,
with estimate.
,, Accountant-General.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IRRIGATION.
ACCOUNT.

G.O. No. 328 I., 28th July 1916

Supply of water for seedlings in the single crop area, Periyar system

Recording correspondence regarding the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Irrigation.

READ—the following papers :—

I

G.O. No. 142 I., dated 24th March 1916.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders regarding the supply of water to the single crop area under the Periyar Irrigation system.

II

Memorandum No. 3426/16-A/1, dated 1st/2nd May 1916.

It is observed from the Executive Engineer's "note on the subject of opening the Periyar lake earlier in case of full supply in July" (paragraphs 14 and 15) printed in G.O. No. 142 I., dated 24th March 1916, that water for seedlings is not issued to the single crop area before full kalam crop supply is passed down. Such a custom would appear to be an error which calls for revision as only a small supply is required for such a purpose The Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, is requested to submit a full report on the subject.

W. M. ELLIS, Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

III

Letter—from M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur L. D. VENKATARAMA AYYAR Avargal, B.A., B.C.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
To—the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Dated—Trichinopoly, the 9th May 1916.
No.—752-C.E.

Referring to your Memorandum No. 3426/16-A-1, dated 2nd May 1916, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of letter No. 464-S.E., dated 20th April 1916, from the Executive Engineer, Madura division, and to state that the Executive Engineer has been informed in this office No. 3601, dated 29th April 1916, that his presumption is right.

ENCLOSURE.

Letter—from J. S. WESTERDALE, Esq., Executive Engineer, Madura division.
To—the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, Trichinopoly.
Dated—the 20th April 1916.
No.—464-S.E.

With reference to your No. 2858, dated 4th April 1916, I have the honour to note that the order states that water will be restricted to the double crop area during the period June to August. It is presumed that water may be let down to fill *tanks* on the single crop area as was done last year. If the canal runs full it will be impossible to utilise all the water in the double crop area and it will have to be let down the river unless it can be sent to fill tanks on the single crop area. This method of utilising the water in 1915-16 was very successful and resulted in a minimum of water complaints, general satisfaction amongst the ryots, a more simultaneous raising of seedling throughout the single crop area and an earlier and more simultaneous closure in the single crop area.

IV

Memorandum No. 3426/16-A/2, dated 22nd/23rd May 1916.

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation is glad to note that the steps taken last year for the disposal of the surplus water from the Periyar lake during the period June to August by the filling of tanks in the single crop area has met with general satisfaction. He approves of the action of the Superintending Engineer in having informed the Executive Engineer that, when the lake surpluses, water may be let down to fill *tanks* in the single crop area.

2. Cases may, however, frequently arise when the lake does not surplus before the date of issue of full supply to the *kalam* crop. The restricted supplies issued to the *kodai* crop are presumably mostly required for the irrigation of this crop. It is believed that it should also be used for raising seedlings for the transplantation of the *kalam* crop and that notwithstanding the general orders issued in G.O. No. 273 I., dated 4th June 1915, to restrict irrigation up to 18th August to the areas classified as double crop, water for seedlings only should, say for three weeks before the above date, be supplied to seed-beds in the single crop area. Failing this, on the issue of full supply from the 18th August, it may be impossible to utilise this fully for two or three weeks, because seedlings are not available.

3. The Superintending Engineer is accordingly requested to submit a report as to what is done or proposed in a year when the lake does not surplus before the 18th August, to enable sufficient seedlings for commencing transplantation to be ready by that date in the single crop area, so as to allow cultivation and transplantation to be started without delay.

W. M. ELLIS, Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

V

Letter—from J. S. WESTERDALE, Esq., Executive Engineer, Madura division.
To—the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, Trichinopoly.
Dated—the 1st June 1916.
No.—678-S.E.

With reference to your No. 4546, dated 26th May 1916, I have the honour to state that it is the exception and not the rule that water is let down to the single crop area before 18th August. In ordinary years when supply is not let down until the 18th August the majority of the ryots begin to prepare seed-beds only after August 18th. As supply to the single crop area is usually maintained until the middle of February there is ample time in which to raise the whole crop including seed-beds. Some of the ryots who wish to raise crops early purchase seedlings which have been grown in the double crop area and a few raise seedlings from wells or from tanks when water happens to be available therein late in July or early in August, but the majority only raise their seedlings after Periyar water is let down. I do not consider that it is necessary to take any steps to give supply for seedlings in ordinary years prior to August 18th.

In the exceptional years when supply is available for sending to the single crop area before August 18th the primary object in view is not to enable the ryots to raise seedlings before August 18th but simply to find some use for the water which would otherwise be wasted. The result is that seedlings are raised and the cultivation in the single crop area is generally pushed forward but there is no reason why this result should be aimed at in ordinary years when this early surplus supply is not available. A supply for seedlings only must necessarily be most inefficiently distributed as it is either sent in large volumes to tanks where it is subject to high evaporation losses or distributed at a very shallow depth in broad channels. We can therefore only afford to do this when the supply concerned is surplus when we are not concerned with efficiency but only wish to find some use for the water.

No. 935-*C.E.*, *dated* 9*th June* 1916.

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for information with reference to his Memorandum No. 3426/16-A-2, dated 23rd May 1916. As seedlings are generally raised only after 18th August no special steps need be taken for supply for seedlings before that date.

L. D. Venkatarama Ayyar,
Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

VI

Memorandum No. 3426/16-A/3, dated 19th June 1916.

With reference to endorsement No. 935-C.E., dated 9th June 1916, from the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, regarding the supply of water to the single crop area in the Periyar system, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation has the honour to state that the Executive Engineer's report is not convincing. Apparently the action taken in 1915 under which water was made available for seedlings before the 18th August gave general satisfaction—vide Executive Engineer's No. 461-S.E., dated 20th April 1916. The object of letting down full supply from the lake on the 18th August, is to facilitate rapid transplantation. Supposing that the labour and the general conditions limit the progress of transplantation to 1/40th of the kalam area daily, then, given suitable supplies of seedlings, this work would be completed by the end of September. If, however, seedlings are only available for say, 20 per cent of the area, until the new seedlings raised under the water issued from the 18th August are ready for transplantation (say, by 12th September), then only 20 per cent of the area can be transplanted by 12th September and transplantation will not be complete till the 16th October. Meanwhile, the full supplies which would have sufficed for transplantation by the 30th September would have been passed from the 18th August.

2. There may be very good reasons why water for seedlings should not be passed to the single crop area before the 18th August in a normal year, but, if this is admitted, there must be good reasons for passing into the canal full transplantation supplies from the 18th August although the transplantation of the major portion of the areas cannot, for want of seedlings, be commenced till about 12th September.

The Superintending Engineer is requested to submit further remarks on this aspect of the question.

(By Order)

W. M. Ellis, Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

VII

Letter—from M. O'Brien, Esq., Executive Engineer, Madura division.
To—the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, Trichinopoly.
Dated—the 3rd July 1916.
No.—840-S.E.

With reference to your No. 5396, dated 24th June 1916, I have the honour to report that the existing practice in a normal year when the lake does not surplus before the date of letting water to the single crop area is to rigidly exclude water from that area until the due date. After that full supply is usually passed down from the lake and as much as possible of that is sent to the single crop area. Generally speaking seedlings are not raised in that area before the water is let in. In a few cases seedlings are grown in advance under tanks or on lands in the double crop area. This system has worked satisfactorily in the past. The transplanting of the single crop area is usually a lengthy operation, the tail end lands especially the lands under the big tail end tanks having to wait until the upper lands supplied by the direct channels are planted. It may be noted also that the considerable extent in the double crop area that grows only a single crop has to be supplied with water

for transplantation in this same period. My experience is in most years the supply available in September and early in October would be quite insufficient to allow of all the single crop lands to be transplanted at one time and I therefore think it is just as well seedlings are not ready for all these lands before the opening of the single crop area. I think the present system under which the operation of transplantation is long and gradual, is the best one and gives the best results under the circumstances.

2. I doubt if it would be sound in any year even if the lake were surplussing in July to pass water generally into the single crop area before the due date. I think, it would be safer, if there is spare water which would otherwise go to waste, to pass such water into tanks in the single and double crop area, and into tanks only, where it would be stored and relieve the strain usually experienced in September and early October. I do not think it should be passed out of the channel sluices on to the fields. I think it should be passed straight down the channels to the tanks.

3. In the past four years water was several times passed down the 10th Branch channel during the kodai season to big tanks for a few days at a time when there was more water available than the channels in the double crop area could hold. Care was always taken to send it into the tanks only and the channel sluices were kept closed. It was always found that the supply so given was most useful in the kalam season later on. It was not considered then that any special orders were needed for doing this, the expedient being merely a temporary one resorted to divert as much as possible of the water available to the Periyar area.

No. 1087-*C.E.*, *dated 7th July* 1916.

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation with reference to his Memorandum No. 3426/16-A-3, dated 19th June 1916.

C. PEDDIE,
Offg. Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

Order—No. 328 I., dated 28th July 1916.

Recorded.

(True Extract)

W. M. ELLIS, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government., P.W.D.
(Irrigation Branch).

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
" Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).
" Revenue Department.